

The Sun.

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 1880.

The regular circulation of THE SUN for the week ending May 1, 1880, was:

Sunday	121,000	Weekly	78,810
Monday	118,000	Thursdays	77,043
Tuesday	115,000	Fridays	75,714
Wednesday	112,000	Saturdays	74,485
Total for the week		519,549	

The Republicans in Congress.

The Republicans in Congress have made two conspicuous blunders recently.

Last June, after an angry and protracted controversy, the point in dispute upon the Army bill, between the Fraudulent President and the Democratic majority in Congress, was adjusted by a sort of compromise, prohibiting "any portion of the army of the United States to be used as a police force to keep the peace at the polls at any election held within any State."

Certainly that provision is mild enough in itself, and only asserts a principle which has been adopted in a much more positive form in England for over two hundred years. The presence of troops at or near the polls, or their interference in any way with elections, is repugnant to the sentiment of every American citizen.

Yet when this provision was renewed in the present Army bill, the Republicans who had voted for it at the extra session turned around and denounced the proposition as outrageous. Some of them threatened a veto, and others were led to declare that they would not support the bill. The result was that the provision to exclude soldiers from the polls could not be executed, or that means would be found to evade it.

The Republican managers used the army to perpetrate the frauds in Louisiana, Florida, and South Carolina in 1876, and afterward to consummate the iniquity at Washington. They intend to use the army again to fail, and HAYES will obey any orders the chiefs may give, no matter who may be nominated at Chicago, or what the language of the Army bill may prescribe. The Republicans in Congress have stultified themselves unnecessarily.

The second blunder was in reference to the appointment of special deputy marshals, who have been openly used as electioneering agents, at great cost to the public treasury. Hitherto they have been appointed by the marshals, and in the large cities have generally been chosen from the worst portion of the community. The Democrats proposed to divide them politically, to require good moral character as a condition of appointment, and to confer the power of appointment on the United States Courts. The Republicans fought the proposition fiercely and were beaten.

In both these cases the fight was renewed in the House after the bills came back amended from the Senate. The Republicans were not satisfied with one defeat in each instance, or with a single exposure of their folly. They were contending for party advantages, and sought to obtain them at any sacrifice. They failed, and by this factious resistance wasted their adversaries what may be expected in the electoral contest a few months hence.

A New Discussion of Home Rule.

We referred, not long since, to Mr. JERRY MCCARTHY's defense of the Home Rule programme, and pointed out that the fulfillment of his demands would involve a reconstruction of the British Constitution. In the April number of the *Nineteenth Century* we observe that one of his English opponents makes a similar point, and Mr. MCCARTHY, for the first time, undertakes to meet the objection. As this is the rock on which the Home Rulers are sure to split, it may be well to note some features of this discussion.

As regards the scope of the law-making power, which Mr. MCCARTHY would have delegated to an Irish Parliament, this may be briefly described as substantially equivalent to that assigned to our State Legislature. He conceals at once that the making of treaties, and the levying of taxes for purposes of national administration and defense, and, in a word, all the functions exercised by an American Congress, would be done by the Imperial Assembly at St. Stephen's. Just where, however, the authority of one party to the federal compact would end, and that of the other would begin, would have to be, Mr. MCCARTHY would have written instructions. Now, what would be the essential nature of such an instrument, and with what sanction would it be clothed? That is the decisive, fundamental question at issue, but it is one which Mr. MCCARTHY shows an inclination to evade. Something, as we shall see, he says, but nine-tenths of his clever article is devoted to side issues which can never have any real pertinence or moment so long as this capital inquiry is not squarely answered.

Mr. MCCARTHY intimates that a simple act of Parliament, such as the one we have just seen amended to-morrow, and repealed next week, would be to him a satisfactory groundwork and guarantee of Ireland's legislative independence. He seems to think that the mere passage of such an act would operate like enchantment, transforming Ireland into a realm of plenty and delight, where age-long rancors and antipathies would be forthwith forgotten, and where the most knotty social and economical problems would solve themselves. The Celt would positively love the Saxon, and the Protestant of Ulster would recognize his best friend of the south. Our Home Ruler cheerfully takes for granted that if one Parliament could be brought to the point of creating an Irish legislature, all succeeding Imperial assemblies might safely be trusted to interpret that creative act in a way entirely acceptable to the Irish people. Indeed, his confidence in the good sense, breadth of view, uprightness, and generosity of Englishmen is only exceeded by his frank recognition of the same admirable qualities in the Irish character. He knows, of course, that Englishmen own a good deal of land and have some capital invested in the neighboring island, and that Parliament would be likely to secure their interests, to some extent at least, in determining the powers of an Irish legislature. The measure would be apt to contain not only a clause limiting the scope of *ex post facto* interference with contracts, but also a clause abridging the right of remodelling land tenures. Nor is it improbable that Parliament, considering the religious antipathies of the past and the numerical weakness of the Protestant element in Ireland, would deem it necessary, upon delegating a large measure of its powers, to secure the minority from a possible outbreak of theological prejudice. Mr. MCCARTHY is well aware that, so long as Englishmen continue to hold property in Ireland, and so long as Protestants and Catholics fight in the streets of Belfast, the matters above mentioned would require explicit provisions in any law enabling Ireland to legislate for herself. But he thinks there would not be the slightest ground for quarrel in the construction of such an act; that

in the era of good feeling ushered in by the precious boon of self-government, no Irish assembly would seek to put an interpretation upon a clause of its charter which by any possibility could offend any human being. If it did, the Imperial Parliament would acquiesce in its action, preferring peace and harmony above all other earthly considerations. In short, there would be so much common sense and so much good feeling on both sides of the Irish Channel, that the act defining the powers of the Irish legislature would practically construe itself.

Of course, the statement of such sanguine views is a *reductio ad absurdum*. In the case of the most homogeneous and firmly knit communities, the federal compact has not escaped severe strain. The united provinces of the Netherlands were welded together by a common race, a common speech, and a war of eighty years against a common enemy; yet two years after their independence was recognized, the States-General came in sharp collision with the province of Holland, and the canon of the Stadtholder were trained on Amsterdam. There was a like identity of interest and sentiment among the thirteen American colonies, yet within five years after the adoption of the Constitution, the Federal authority had to be upheld by military force in western Pennsylvania. It is preposterous to suppose that less friction would be developed between England and Ireland in the federal relation. On the contrary, it is plain that if ever the specific fields of Imperial jurisdiction were to be distinctly marked, and vigilantly guarded by inviolable guarantees, the attitude of the majority of the Irish people toward England calls for such precautions. A mere act of Parliament whose construction, modification, and repeal would lie within the competence of the Imperial assembly, is the last thing that ought to satisfy the Irish people.

It will never satisfy the Home Rulers, if they are clear-headed and patriotic men, and we cannot resist the inference that Mr. MCCARTHY is insincere in professing satisfaction with the Imperial authority. It looks as though he sought to allay present apprehension and shirk the questions raised by an organic act, until the project of Home Rule has been definitely launched in the forum of Parliamentary discussion.

In the end, all such discussion must turn upon one pivot, namely, the wisdom of transforming the British Constitution. Nothing but an organic act, that is to say, a written instrument of authority superior to a simple act of Parliament, would afford any guarantee for the duration and integrity of a federal union between Great Britain and Ireland. Such a written Constitution necessarily involves two corollaries, entirely inconsistent with the British polity as it exists to-day. It involves an independent tribunal as the supreme expounder of the organic document, and an independent executive as the enforcer of its decrees. The administrative head of such a system might, of course, be the Crown re-invested in its old prerogatives, or it might be a President elected by the whole nation; but it could not be what at present it virtually is, an executive committee called a Ministry, and simply representing the majority of the House of Commons.

Such is the logical, indispensable, inevitable outcome of the demand for a separate, partially autonomous assembly, or, as we might describe it, State Legislature, in Ireland. The British Parliament, under such a scheme, would lose the essential quality of its existing competence; it would cease to be supreme, for there would be a power outside of and above the sphere of its action. We are thus brought to the point of a change from a Parliamentary to a Presidential system must needs be fraught with mischief to the United Kingdom; but we affirm that this would be the least objectionable method of carrying out a federal union of Great Britain and Ireland. The crown of the Tyrone or an elective Chief Magistrate, like the American President, these are the sole alternatives. And sooner or later the Home Rulers will be compelled to curb their discursive rhetoric, and pin themselves down to the legal aspects of their case.

The Russian Dissenters.

It appears from the latest despatches that the Czar's Ministers have carried out a plan for some time in contemplation, and have removed the disabilities of the Old Ritualists and other dissenters from the Russian State Church. This move, which is a change from a Parliamentary to a Presidential system must needs be fraught with mischief to the United Kingdom; but we affirm that this would be the least objectionable method of carrying out a federal union of Great Britain and Ireland. The crown of the Tyrone or an elective Chief Magistrate, like the American President, these are the sole alternatives. And sooner or later the Home Rulers will be compelled to curb their discursive rhetoric, and pin themselves down to the legal aspects of their case.

Among the multitudinous sects and communities into which the dissenters from the orthodox Russian Church are broken up, the so-called Old Ritualists and Priestless People are the most considerable in point of numbers and wealth. Both of these bodies have sprung from the great schism of the seventeenth century, caused by the ecclesiastical innovations and reforms introduced at the close of the sixteenth century. One of the innovations regarded with peculiar detestation by conservative Russians was the shaving of the chin, a full beard being accounted an essential condition of salvation. "Where," asked one of the patriarchs of Moscow, "can we expect those who shave their chin to stand at the last day—among the righteous adorned with beards, or with the beardless heretics?" Other changes seem to have consisted merely in the correction of clerical errors which had crept into the liturgical books of many of the dissenting sects. The dissenters refused to receive the vision and clung to their old misall and their old religious customs. An anathema, formally pronounced by an ecclesiastical council against these non-conformists, had no effect, since, in their eyes, the authorities of the Church were now tainted with heresy. Neither was much gained by persecution, although this was carried on with rigor at certain epochs, no less than 2,700 fanatics, on one occasion, having voluntarily set fire to their own houses and perished in the flames. In order to effect the coercion of the Czar's agents, CATHARINE II, however, abolished the disabilities resting on the adherents of the *raskol*, as this schism was called, and since her time the rulers have oscillated between tolerance and oppression. It would seem to be the purpose of the present Czar's counselors to return to the policy of CATHARINE II, extending it, moreover, to other categories of heresy and dissent. We should note here that a rupture long ago took place in the ranks of these schismatics, one party retaining all the ceremonial observances in the older form, the other refraining from the sacraments and from many of the ordinary rites, on the ground that there was no longer a real priesthood. The former division, known as Old Ritualists, have remained a compact body, while the latter, called Priestless People, have split into an endless number of independent sects. These matters above mentioned would require explicit provisions in any law enabling Ireland to legislate for herself. But he thinks there would not be the slightest ground for quarrel in the construction of such an act; that

founder, refuse to regard the Czar otherwise than as Anti-Christ. The latter theory is cherished with a special fervor by a sect called the Philippians, which still exists, and whose belief that the civil and ecclesiastical authorities are the servants of Satan ought to furnish a good many recruits to nihilism. A still more fanatical sect is the so-called Christ's People, better known under the nicknames of Wanderers or Fugitives. Of all the non-conformist sects, however, the most hostile to the existing political organization, not content with condemning every regulation of the civil and ecclesiastical powers, they consider it sinful even to live peacefully among an orthodox population. It is plain, from this rapid outline, that there is among the Russian schismatics a gradation of fanaticism from the Wanderers, who profess the Anti-Christ doctrine in its intensest form, up to the Old Ritualists, who differ from all the other sectaries in keeping the civil and ecclesiastical authorities in the spiritual authority of the dominant Church. As might be expected, the severity of the treatment received on the part of the Government has varied according to the tendency of the doctrines preached. It may be questioned, however, whether the rigor displayed toward the Wanderers and Philippians has not been misplaced. Instead of dispelling the absurd idea that the Czar is Anti-Christ by a system of even-handed justice, the Government has confirmed the notion in the minds of the whole population of Russia, and has thus done more to do, and who desired merely to worship God according to their conscience.

According to MACKENZIE WALLACE, on whose authority these statements are based, the dissenters from the established church compose a formidable body. Of Old Ritualists and Priestless People there are, he tells us, no less than seven millions, while the distinctly heretical and fanatical sects comprise some three millions more. They constitute, in other words, about an eighth of the whole population of the empire, including in their ranks the third and wealthiest part of the merchant class, the majority of the Don Cossacks, and all the Cossacks of the Ural. The more violent sects, which are capable of active hostility, are weak in numbers, but Mr. WALLACE thinks that the great majority of the Russian schismatics and heretics are loyal subjects of the Czar. But though sectarianism may not be a serious danger, he admits that it has a considerable political significance. It proves that even the unenlightened mass of the Russian population is by no means so stupid and phlegmatic as commonly supposed, and that it is capable of showing a dogged resistance to authority when it believes great interests are at stake.

The Favorite Lines of a Lady Correspondent.

Very frequently happens that people grow to have a great fondness for poetical productions concerning whose authorship they are totally in the dark. Owing so much to the products of the fancy of the unknown writers, they have a laudable desire to find out who they are, and to offer to individuals who can name the incense of their gratitude. One of these grateful admirers of anonymous poetry writes to THE SUN, inquiring as to the authorship of certain lines which have long lingered in her memory as priceless gems of sentiment. This is her letter:

"Sir: I have seen in your most valuable paper, THE SUN, of your lending your assistance to me in trouble, and here you will please help me. I have heard of several of your kind and generous offers, but I have not seen your names or the names of the songs, but I will give you a few lines of each:

"When stars are in the quiet skies,
And moon is then their tender eyes,
As stars look on the sea,
So I look on thee, my dear,
And think that thou art here,
And think that thou art here,
And think that thou art here,
And think that thou art here."

"These are some of the words. I am not sure they are just right. I will now give all the words I know of the other piece:

"I would offer thee this heart of mine
If I could love thee less,
But hearts are pure, so warm as thine
Should I give thee, I should give thee
Myself, I should give thee
Myself, I should give thee
Myself, I should give thee
Myself, I should give thee."

"Please answer, if possible, and greatly oblige,"
"MRS. HENRY."

We are obliged to confess our inability to name the composer or composers of these lines, though we are inclined to think that they are the product of the same rhyming machine, or at least come from machines run on the same principle. Judged by the highest standards of poetry, they will be found wanting; but, as they are so popular, they have the great merit of expressing, though rather clumsily, sentiments held in honor, by nearly all women especially—fidelity unto death, with the hope, not always enduring, of union with the beloved one after death, and the glad sacrifice of self in behalf of the person loved. We have no doubt that it is because of these beautiful sentiments in them that the verses she quotes from memory have grown so dear to Mrs. HENRY.

Love and death are the great themes for poetry—affection for the living and lamentations for the dead. They themselves are so potent and so sure of awakening responsive emotions, that whoever can get the knack of rhyming is pretty sure of an audience of some kind when he makes them the subject of his verse, no matter how bad it may be. If he can't put poetry into his compositions himself, the emotions of the readers will do it for him; and indeed, with rare exceptions, the poetry must be furnished by the reader, who may be, without knowing it, more really poetical than the writer of the verse which suggests his poetic fancies.

Of the lines of the clasp to which the unknown author of the lines dear to Mrs. HENRY belongs, the most famous is G. WASHINGTON CHILDS, A.M., the Philadelphia bard. But his found fancy loves best to linger about the bier and the tomb. He would deem it almost sacrilege to write of the joys of the beloved overpress upon his heart. Mr. CHILDS, therefore, cannot be the author of Mrs. HENRY's favorite verses, though if he should take to that department of poetic composition, we have no doubt that he would have to ask odds of the actual writer in a lyric composition.

Of our other poets we can now recall none as the author of those lines, though so far as originality and genuine poetic sentiment go they are not far inferior to the average work of some of the men who have set up for poets and succeeded in getting people to believe in their pretensions. Miss HENRY's favorite lines stand about as much chance of prolonged vitality as theirs.

Being unable to give her the information she asks for, we hope she will pardon us for

substituting a suggestion, which may be profitable to her. It is that instead of quoting for the author of the verses she quotes, she give her attention to the real poetry of which THE SUN offers frequent examples in its several editions, particularly that of Sunday. This poetry is carefully selected, and is remarkably good, on the average—so good that there are not half a dozen of our more pretentious American poets who produce any better when they do their very best, while a large part of what they write is below its level.

The authors of this poetry are generally men and women for whom no great reputation has been made, and they are not known in the literary circles frequented by the small poets, whose admiration and criticism, fortunately for them, they have not suffered from. A surprising amount of very tasteful and melodious, and some exceedingly simple and good poetry, is now written by many of the poets of our time, who put in no claims to a great place among poets, and perhaps would never think of parading as bards at all. Take out the work of a few poets of unmistakable right to be so called, and whose number in this country might be counted on the fingers of one hand, and that furnished by these humble writers ranks with the verse produced by men whose names are kept before the public as if they lived very high up on Parnassus.

We advise Miss HENRY to read the specimens of this contemporary poetry we publish; and when she has done so, what we found out how much better it is than they, she will lose her interest in the authorship of the lines she has quoted for us.

No Longer a Christian.

It must surprise people to hear of a minister's resigning his pastorate and giving up the preaching of the Gospel because he has come to the conclusion that he is not a Christian. But that was the reason the Rev. GEORGE CHAINÉY, a Unitarian minister, recently gave for resigning the charge of a church in Evansville. He started his congregation a week ago last Sunday by announcing that he was not a Christian, and that inasmuch as his church declared itself Christian it was plainly his duty to hand in his resignation as its pastor.

Ministers frequently resign for other reasons, but the case of the Rev. Mr. CHAINÉY is peculiar. They may get calls to more desirable churches, that pay their pastors better salaries. They may not like the climate of the region in which they are settled, and therefore may gladly seize the opportunity for a change. They may find their congregations growing tired of their style of preaching and desiring to entertain it unfavorably. They may have collected a barrel of sermons, which will be as good as new to a fresh church, and so long as it holds out they can get rid of sermon writing. Their families may not enjoy the society of the places where they are. It may not be fine enough to suit their tastes. The elders or deacons and the old members of the congregation may weary them with doctrinal questions and religious gossip. They may be tired of living in the country, and want to try the life of a city, or they may want to change may have fascinations for them. They may think that elsewhere their talents will be as highly appreciated by others as they are by themselves. The cost of living in the new place may be less, or the schools for the children better, or the chances of getting a desirable home greater.

There are a thousand and one reasons why ministers resign their parishes, besides the refusal of their congregations to longer entertain their preaching. We mean the real reasons, those which are not of a merely worldly character, but which are of a spiritual nature. They are, of course, that the life of Providence gives up some other field. They may, too, give up preaching because they want to go into some more congenial or profitable business; but a century may pass and not one minister resign because he discovers he is in truth not a Christian.

And yet probably if only those who are Christians after the New Testament model were left in Christian pulpits, the number of pulpits found vacant would be great. If only those preachers who have a genuine, glowing, and vital belief in the doctrine they preach, and who regulate their lives in accordance with them, how many churches would now be hunting for pastors?

Moreover, if all those of their congregations who profess and call themselves Christians were Christians in truth instead of in name only, what a change would come over the face of society! What a revolution would take place in business!

The Rev. Mr. CHAINÉY shows that he is an honest man in giving up the charge of a church, and in showing that he is no longer a Christian. He also shows that it is, what few men are, an honest critic of himself. If everybody tested his religious belief and his religious practice by the Christian standards as they are laid down in the New Testament, and accepted the result with equal candor, perhaps instead of being a remarkable exception the Rev. Mr. CHAINÉY would find he was lost to sight in the crowded ranks of the majority.

Guns Dangerous to Friend and Foe.

We have now the particulars concerning the bursting of the 100-ton gun at Spezia last month. This huge rifle, of the largest size yet constructed, was mounted in one of the turrets of the Italian Dullio, the most powerful ironclad in the world. Its fate is important because it teaches us anew the perils which attend the handling of the great modern guns, which are now so common, and which show them to be nothing more than experiments in ordnance.

It is only a little over a year since a 38-ton gun on the English Thunder burst during practice. This gun, which at that time was one of the most powerful in use, and had been constructed with infinite pains, was blown into fragments, and everybody in its vicinity was either killed or wounded, while much damage was done to the turret of the vessel. It was surmised that the gun had been doubly loaded with powder, and that the powder had ignited; but that is an accident not unlikely to happen under the excitement of action, a gun of the same size was last winter tested at Woolwich with a double charge. Like the Thunder gun, it was blown to pieces.

These experiences with the 38-ton gun cannot fail to throw doubt on all the guns manufactured after the system used in its construction, the one employed at Woolwich. It is a pretty severe strain on the nerves to fire one of these huge rifles in a turret, even if the gunners have confidence in the weapon; but if they feel that every time they discharge it they take their lives in their hands, they can hardly be blamed if they are a good deal demoralized. It is plain that to make these huge rifles of the highest effectiveness in war, it must be demonstrated that they are no longer likely to be as dangerous to those who serve them as to those against whom they are directed.

While the bursting of the 38-ton guns has so lately brought suspicion on the Woolwich system of manufacture, after which a large share of the guns in the British navy are constructed, the bursting of the 100-ton

gun on the Dullio now raises doubts of the soundness of the ARMSTRONG system, the one on which it was built. Thus, of the small number of systems of heavy gun manufacture with which we are familiar—the Woolwich, the ARMSTRONG, the PALMER, the WHITWORTH, and the KRUPP—two have been brought under condemnation. And yet, with the difficulties of manufacture vastly increasing with the size of the gun, experimental rifles of 81 tons have been made after the Woolwich system, and drawings for guns on the same plan to weigh between 160 and 200 tons have been prepared. At the Elswick Works, where the ARMSTRONG guns are made, rifles of 150 tons are to be constructed. KRUPP, too, has a design for a breech-loader of 124 tons.

The gun at Spezia burst on the first fire. It was loaded with 551 pounds of powder and a shot weighing 2,000 pounds; a charge intended to be used when the full power of the gun was to be called into play. It was not run into fragments like the Thunder gun, but broke into two pieces. The whole of the muzzle, together with the trunnions, remained fixed to the carriage, while the rest of the gun was blown backward against the wall of the turret, doing much damage to the vessel, but destroying no lives.

If these great guns, the fruits of the most consummate engineering skill, and the results of long and careful experiment, are liable to burst into many fragments, or to be blown apart during the comparatively calm time of peace, what, what will be their fate and the fate of those who handle them amid the haste of war?

With their own weapons menacing the lives of the gunners and threatening the ship, and with torpedoes below its armored sides, ready to send the whole craft to the bottom, one of the huge ironclads upon which Europe is lavishing so much money would have reason to hesitate before it attempted the passage of a properly defended channel. Only here and there a gun may burst, but one such catastrophe destroys confidence in the whole number.

Mr. Tilden's Strength in Pennsylvania.

Our advices from Pennsylvania, in the accuracy of which we have great confidence, represent Mr. TILDEN's strength in the delegation from that State as 32 certain, almost certainly not less than 40, and not improbably 50.

The triumph of Mr. RANDALL in the State Convention was so great as to surprise his friends in this city, while it greatly gratified them.

Now let us have complete harmony, both in Pennsylvania and in New York, and elect the Democratic candidate, whose victory the majority may determine to nominate.

Mr. GLADSTONE may be congratulated on having prevailed on Earl COWLEY, K.G., to accept the costly and responsible post of Viceroy of Ireland. Lord COWLEY is a very sensible, well-educated man, of the highest personal character, and what is of moment in the case of an Irish Viceroy, of immense wealth. Both he and his wife, a daughter of the Marquis of NORTHAMPTON, are entirely unconnected with Ireland; but if this is to be regretted on some accounts, it is, on the other hand, an advantage in the fact of the Viceroy coming to his office untroubled by local or personal prejudices. The COWLEYS are one of the numerous families in the English peerage who owe their rise to a successful lawyer, whose brother was at one time put on his trial for the murder of Miss STOUT, a young Quaker lady, a case which drew upon him the attention of the whole country. The COWLEYS are, however, in no sense a shadow of doubt, afterward himself became a judge, and was grandfather of the poet. The present Viceroy is really the great estates of his grandfather, Lord PALMERSTON, and will ultimately inherit them. The COWLEYS are, however, in no sense a shadow of doubt, afterward himself became a judge, and was grandfather of the poet. The present Viceroy is really the great estates of his grandfather, Lord PALMERSTON, and will ultimately inherit them.

The merry month of May had a stormy beginning. At 1 o'clock yesterday morning a wintry wind made the lights in the City Hall Park dance and flicker, and the newsmen waiting for the morning papers crowded into corners to keep warm. All through the forenoon, however, the sun shone brightly, and the streets were comfortable. In the afternoon, however, the air grew warmer, the sky cleared, and before sundown it turned out to be no bad a May day after all.

In the country the sun, whose rays in the city served only to make the discomforts of moving more glaringly visible, shone brightly and in sheltered spots, even warmly. Its beams made their way through the trees and lighted up the delicate little green leaves just opening from the buds. They sought out and nourished certain hardy May flowers growing at the foot of the trees, and in some places they even made their way through the leaves of the last year's dead leaves. But it was really the day to go a-Maying, and the May Queen who endured the ordeal of a coronation yesterday and is not to-day the victim of a tyrannical influenza must be a very hardy young woman.

There are those who think that whenever the sun is unusually perturbed the earth feels the effects of the disturbance, in the shape of great storms and magnetic agitation. Scientific observations seem to give color to this opinion. It may be merely a coincidence that during the last week, in which disastrous storms have carried terror and death into flourishing Western towns, the sun has given evidence of more powerful physical commotion than has been observed for several years past.

The remarkable row of spots now visible on the sun's northern hemisphere shows the working of forces whose power and activity are almost inconceivable. On Wednesday the spots were aggregated into four groups nearly equidistant. On Friday one of these groups had split into two, and the parts had become separated by a distance of probably 25,000 miles. On Saturday there were six groups in a row, and far off to the southwest another large group, which there had been no indication on the day before, made its appearance. Hourly changes of form and position were visible in the smaller spots surrounding the chief members of the groups.

One of the marked features of the zoological garden of Philadelphia is its being open all days alike. It has been found from the first that the Sun's visitors outnumbered, on an average, of any other two days in the week. The annual report, just published, shows that during the year ending the 1st of March the receipts on the Sundays were \$16,784, while those of all the other six days put together, including the holidays, were \$24,445. The animal garden, in Fairmount Park, though managed by a private corporation, is practically, also, a public institution, under the control of the Park Commission. Its experience illustrates why it is that the cry for the opening on Sundays of public galleries, museums, and gardens is so strong.

Mr. Alfred Arnold, formerly of Tenney, N.J., died on the 23d of April, at an Argentine flat, aged about 70 years. He was native of Great Britain. Mr. Arnold had read and reflected much on matters relating to science and the mechanic arts, and he was accustomed to write a good deal on those subjects for the *Scientific American*. He was familiar with Latin, and was the inventor of several valuable improvements in machinery for manufacturing purposes.

To-morrow the Hahnemann Hospital Fair, so tragically interrupted, will be resumed in the armory of the Twenty-second Regiment, on Fourteenth street, near the City Hall. The voting on the college shall continue, the books remaining open until 12:30 P. M. on Wednesday. Thus far 107 votes have been cast, and Yale is 6 votes ahead of Columbia.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN EUROPE.

In spite of her personal preference for Lord Granville and Hartington, and probably by their advice, Queen Victoria has appointed Mr. Gladstone her Prime Minister. Their lordships were successively called upon to assume the reins of government, but wisely declined the responsibility. Their reasons for doing so were sound. To Mr. Gladstone the Liberal victory is due, and to the victor belong the spoils. Moreover, according to good authorities, the size of the Liberal majority and the unusual consistency of which it is partially composed, will make it one of the most difficult majorities to handle that England has ever seen. Neither Lord Hartington nor Lord Granville would have had the slightest chance of success in an attempt at controlling such spirits as Braidhead and the other members of the same stamp.

There is another and stronger reason why Mr. Gladstone should shoulder the responsibilities of government. As a free lance he has shown himself a sublimated Don Quixote, tilting at windmills and making himself generally disagreeable. With the cares of office on his head, he has been transformed into a brilliant and self-control of which he would hardly be believed capable by those acquainted only with his erratic course when in opposition. The great objection to Lord Granville as Prime Minister is his being a member of the House of Lords. In that position, sphere in which it is impossible to properly feel the pulse of the nation. No amount of reading blue books and reports can equal the experience gained by actual contact with the questions of the hour. 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